

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AF-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 SAB-01 SAM-01 AID-20 EUR-25

DRC-01 /164 W

----- 103406

R 311250Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6949

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

S E C R E T 3749

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR XF

SUBJ: PALESTINE NATIONAL COUNCIL: EGYPTIAN VIEW

1. PALESTINE NATIONAL COUNCIL (PNC) CONVENES AT ARAB LEAGUE
JUNE 1. COUNCIL CHAIRMAN KHALID AL-FAHUM TOLD CAIRO PRESS
MAY 31 THAT THIS 12TH SESSION IS FINAL MEETING OF PRESNET
COUNCIL. NEW PNC WILL BE FORMED WITHIN TWO OR THREE MONTHS
FAHUM IS ALSO QUOTED AS ADVOCATING EXTENSION OF "SCOPE OF
MEMBERSHIP" OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE DUE TO CRITICAL NATURE OF
"THE NEXT STAGE".

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2. CAIRO PRESS HAS BEEN STRANGELY SILENT ABOUT WHICH MEMBERS

OF COUNCIL WILL ACTUALLY ATTEND. WE UNDERSTAND, FOR EXAMPLE, GOE WILL NOT PERMIT HABASH TO ENTER EGYPT. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE HEARD MANY OF GROUP ARE ALREADY IN CAIRO, PRESS HAS ANNOUNCED ONLY FAHUM'S ARRIVAL. YASIR ARAFAT, WHOM VARIOUS EGYPTIANS CLAIM TO HAVE SEEN HERE, IS NEVERTHELESS REPORTED BY THE PRESS MAY 31 TO HAVE ARRIVED IN ALGIERS FORM RIYADH.

3. IN HIS FIRST FRIDAY COLUMN AS EDITOR INCHIEF OF AHRAH MAY 31, AHMAD BAHAL-DIN HAS THOUGHTFUL REVIEWS OF PALESTINIAN ACTIVITY FORM 1948 UP TO CHALLENGES FACING PNC ON SATURDAY. HE NOTES SECRETARY KISSINGER ONCE TOLD BOUMEDIENNE THAT AFTER DISENGAGEMENT PROBLEMS ARE RESOLVED, HE MUST THINK ABOUT ESSENCE OF PROBLEM, NAMELY, PALESTINIANS. REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENTS HAVE ALWAYS FACED CHOICE: WHETHER TO FALL AS MARTYRS AT ANY PRICE OR ADOPT DIFFICULT, SOMETIMES BITTER DECISIONS TO REMAIN ALIVE AND CAPABLE OF ACTION. IF ISRAEL WITHDRAWS, RESISTANCE MUST DECIDE WHETHER TO SIMPLY "REJECT", OR TO LEAVE TERRITORY FOR ANOTHER ARAB AUTHORITY OR INTERNATIONAL MANDATE, OR TO ESTABLISH A PALESTINIAN NATIONAL AUTHORITY (SULTAH WATANIYYA). LETTER IS OBVIOUS, THOUGH DIFFICULT CHOICE. IT WILL MEAN "EMBODIMENT OF PALESTINIAN EXISTENCE BY ADDING ELEMENT OF "LAND", THUS RESTORING PALESTINIAN IDENTITY FOR ALL PALESTINIANS, NO MATTER WHERE THEY ARE.

4.COMMENT: BAHAL-DIN IS, OF COURSE, WIDELY-RESPECTED AND WELL-INFORMED POLITICAL ANALYST. NEVERTHELESS, IT IS COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT HE LOBBIED HARD TO GET HIS PRESENT POSITION AS EDITOR IN CHIEF AND OWES THAT POST TO PRESIDENT SADAT. WHILE IT IS TILL EARLY, IT SEEMS REASONABLE TO ASSUME THAT HIS PUBLISHED VIEWS ON PALESTINE PROBLEM WILL FALL IN LINE WITH GOE POLICY.

5. WE RECALL NOTION OF "NATIONAL AUTHORITY" AROSE IN AL-NAHAR'S PUBLICATION OF "MINUTES" OF MAY 8 PALESTINIAN "SUMMIT" IN BEIRUT. THIS NOTION, WE UNDERSTAND, IS SUPPORTED BY GOE WHICH VIEWS IT AS A POSITIVE CONCEPT THAT NEVERTHELESS FALLS SHORT OF ACTUAL NOMINATION OF A PALESTINIAN GOVERNMENT IN EXILE. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT GOE IS NOT PRESSING, AT LEAST FOR THE PRESENT, ITS PREVIOUS SUPPORT FOR THE IDEA THAT PLO EXCOM SHOULD SUBMIT SUGGESTED NAMES FOR PALESTINIAN "CABINET" TO PNC SESSIONFOR
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RATIFICATION.
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